



IOWACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Special Meeting - Minutes
Wednesday, July 13, 2005
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Hoover Building, Level B

Introduction to Discussion - Outreach to Local Governments - Sheila Castaneda, Chair

The discussion initially centered on being creative in outreach to local government. Instead of surveying local governments and getting limited responses of questionable value, it was suggested that IOWAccess partner with local governmental entities that have successful implementations and core competencies in e-Government. Butler County, for example, has been identified as one of the top 10 counties in the nation in e-Government.

There was general agreement that the IOWAccess Advisory Council didn't want to spend a lot of resources on another survey. Instead, they wanted to give some thought to identifying local governments that excel. It was suggested that the online Property Tax Collection application is a great example. It was an exemplary collaborative effort and the IOWAccess Advisory Council should use it as a model. There is no reason to reinvent the wheel on collection of payments.

By way of example, Justice Marcia Ternus stated that 20 to 30 years ago, courts were able to be consistent in using the same software because of central financing. This facilitates great cost savings and enables the development of a consistent interface for citizens. The IOWAccess funding could be used in much the same way.

A question was raised by Sheila Castaneda concerning whether the IOWAccess Advisory Council had already committed to conducting a survey for local governments. Quentin Boyken commented that the monthly reports state that the council had committed to an e-Government citizen survey with Iowa State.

Mary Maloney stated that the County Recorders have a statewide project underway currently. The local governments look at the State as issuing a number of unfunded mandates. Local government also feels that to collaborate with the state requires them to give up local autonomy.

The discussion also addressed the issue that it is difficult for the IOWAccess Advisory Council to come up with things on which to collaborate with local government. It was agreed that the council needs to solicit input from local government and must be ready to support ideas from local government. The key here is to collaborate with, and support, local government on initiatives that are important to them. It is important to get local governmental entities interested and talking among themselves.

It was also stated that an important hallmark of local government projects funded by IOWAccess must be able to be used by other cities or counties in the state. In addition to direct contact with local government, it is important to work with the various associations. Once the IOWAccess Advisory Council identifies and provides to support a limited number of projects, there will be interest generated from the results.

There was some discussion if the approach should be top down or grass roots. A top down approach would enlist the aid of state agencies that conduct business with or have regular



contact with local government. The council felt that they should earmark funds currently in the IOWAccess revolving fund for local government projects.

Pat Deluhery from the Department of Administrative Services explained his function and the genesis of DAS and its customer focus.

The council noted "Transition is scary. The unknowns can slow down or stop many efforts." Sheila Castaneda asked the members for a proposal. It was suggested that an approval process and guidelines for collaborative processes would need to be established. It was also suggested that some "marketing materials" be developed and possible some articles be submitted for appropriate association newsletters.

Action Item: Development of a concept brochure to be included with the August Monthly Status Report.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.